

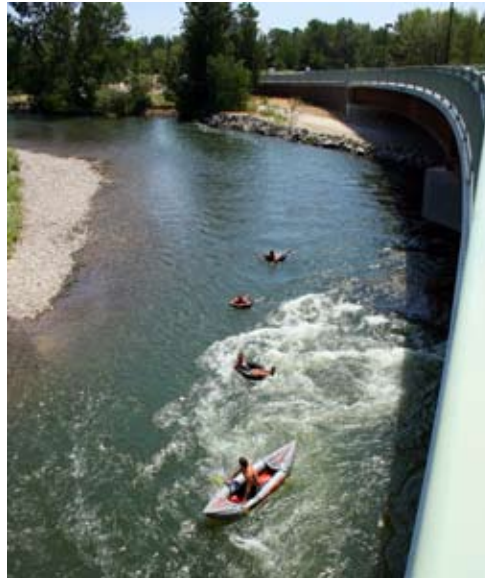


Boise WaterShed News / Summer 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer has finally arrived! Whether it's floating down the river, swimming in a lake, splashing in pool, running through a sprinkler or sipping an ice cold glass of water, one thing is clear: water plays a huge role in our summer odysseys and in our everyday lives too.

Since opening May 2008, the Boise WaterShed has made it a mission to teach people of all ages how to protect and conserve our precious water resources. Our education center is celebrating its one-year anniversary and success in spreading the message to more than 10,000 people!



Tips At Your Finger Tips

"Wow," is what we heard all week following the installation of our newest exhibit at the Boise WaterShed, the Home Water Saver.

A cut-way house within a hall, the six foot tall exhibit features push button room lighting, glowing hoses and pipes – and the sounds of water spraying, toilets flushing and washers washing. "It's a rare visitor that isn't attracted to the sound of a toilet flushing in public," says Christina Rivas, Boise WaterShed Customer Service Specialist, "and the children love seeing the pipes inside the walls light up."

The exhibit itself is a two story house with bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, utility and laundry rooms and a garage. There is a pool, car in the driveway and yard complete with family pets, all designed to encourage interaction with all our visitor age groups.



Factoids in the highlighted areas throughout the home and yard identify water pollution and water wasting problems and how much water can be saved if visitors adopt the easy solutions. Visitors learn the proper disposal of household chemicals and medications and a stack of take-home brochures on top the roof offer more water saving tips and information.

The purpose of the Boise WaterShed is to get our citizens to protect and conserve our water. This particular exhibit is the cornerstone of our conservation message and we are pleased with the excitement it is generating.

WATERSHED WEEKENDS

AUGUST 15

Wetland Wonders

Join us on a hike of the nearby Hyatt Wetlands to learn about the importance of these vanishing habitats. Meet at the Boise WaterShed, then caravan over to the wetlands for the hike. Register by August 8 by calling 489-1284, or e-mail boisewatershed@cityofboise.org. Limited to 30 people. Visitors to the Boise WaterShed can view a movie, see an interactive wetlands model, hear about the Hyatt Wetlands project, and more!

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

JUNE 29-30

"The Energy~Water Connection"

We'll explore energy choices and challenges and the factors that influence our access to clean, affordable water and energy. Registration deadline is June 8. \$15. Credits optional. Lunch included. Register with Stephanie Raddatz, 362-7336.

AUGUST 11-12

"Intro to the Boise WaterShed"

Through Project WET activities, knowledgeable presenters, and field trips, participants will gain an understanding of how the natural and manmade watersheds intersect in the Boise River watershed. FREE or \$60 for one (1) Graduate credit. Register by July 31 by contacting Cindy Busche at 938-8093 x3605 or cbusche@cityofboise.org.

For more information about any of these workshops, visit www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org.

SUMMER CAMPS

July 27-31, 9 am - 4 pm

Boise Earth Action Camp

Participants ages 12-15 can see our watershed from Bogus Basin and explore a foothills stream. See how we get water from the ground and the river, use it in the city, and then put it back. It's an active week of mostly outdoor activities. Cost is \$88.50 for Boise residents and \$136.63 for nonresidents. Limited to 13 people. Find out more at www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Parks/Activities/YouthServices/page29444.aspx

Sign up for the email version of this newsletter!
boisewatershed@cityofboise.org

(208) 489-1284 • 11818 W. Joplin Rd., Boise, ID 83714
www.BoiseEnvironmentalEducation.org
Monday-Friday, 9:30 am-4:30 pm
3rd Saturdays 10 am-2 pm • Closed holidays

NEWS BRIEFS

Windows Into Wet Land

The long-awaited stained glass windows are here! As they first walk in, visitors are greeted with an array of colorful light! Designed by local artist Amy Westover and fabricated near Frankfurt, Germany, the design is inspired by an IDWR infrared image of the Treasure Valley. Stop on by to view the Boise River as you never have experienced before!



Students Monitor the Boise Foothills

Last month Boise High School and Riverstone International School students literally got their hands wet to determine if human activities have a measurable impact on water quality in the Boise foothills. The day of field science was part

of a four-part program led by Boise State graduate student Toni Smith.

Toni is a National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellow working at the Boise WaterShed. The GK-12 grant funds the work of graduate students at local science and environmental education centers.

"The students are meeting, interacting with, and learning from the work of practicing scientists in the natural environment," said Dr. Karen Viskupic, the Boise State geoscientist who directs the NSF GK-12 project. "At the same time, Boise State graduate students are learning the valuable and necessary skill of communicating their work to a non-scientific audience."



Volunteer Spotlight

Every Monday since December, Allan Waite, age 15, and his aid Jeff Gross have volunteered at the Boise WaterShed. Allan first became interested in the Boise WaterShed when he visited last summer with a community group. He instantly was hooked by the video-game-like exhibits and the cool atmosphere. Allan attends Les Bois Middle School and enjoys math, computing, swimming at the YMCA, and riding his bike. The staff would like to extend a special thank you for all that Allan and Jeff do to keep the Boise WaterShed organized and clean!



11818 W Joplin Rd
Boise, ID 83714

Watershed Watch Results

Thanks to more than 175 volunteers for helping us take a snapshot of the health of the Boise River during April's Watershed Watch event. Water quality data was collected from 22 sites along the Boise River, ponds, lakes and tributaries. The data will be posted soon on the Boise WaterShed website.

Water-wise Garden Coming Soon!

Things are under way for a water-wise demonstration garden at the Boise WaterShed. With the help of many volunteers and donors, Americorps member Tom Bouton is turning approximately 1200 square feet of water-intensive grass into several native and low-water plant sites.

A relative of Idaho's state flower, Miss Kim Lilac, will be placed next to one of Patrick Zentz's eleven-foot tall windmills, while its neighbor, the Oregon Grape state flower stands close by. Also featured are: Yarrow, Sea Holly, Hummingbird



Flower, Pink Hardy Ice Plant, Gaura, Woolly Thyme, Apache Plume and many other native Idaho plants and xeric water plants. All told, the plots have 43 different species.



Tremendous gratitude for donations and volunteer work is given to: Jensen Belts Associates Architecture, Edwards Greenhouse, Jayker's Nursery, Rootboy Radio, Jerry Pugh/Boise Parks and Rec. Dept., Old Valley Farm, BSU Anthropology Club, Gem State Academy, Tates Rents, the West Boise Maintenance Crew, and the 4th grade students and staff of Anser Charter School.



Water Fact

Did you know that Idaho uses 22.3 BILLION gallons of water everyday? Of all the states in the country, Idaho is the second largest water user (behind California). In total, 97% of our water goes toward agriculture, 2% toward industry and min-

ing, and 1% toward domestic and commercial use. That is a whole lot of water!